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REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1937

Presented to the

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

by

Francis J. Walker, C.B.E., M.D., L.S.Sc.

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1938.

TO THE SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District over which I act as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

(1) Vital Statistics.

These refer to the old Spilsby Rural District and do not include any items except in the appendix relating to the old Sibsey Rural District. The figures are compiled from the returns which I receive monthly from the Local Registrars of Births and Deaths and only refer to the 63 parishes for which I am responsible.

Area. This Area is 124,465 acres.

Population. According to the census of 1931 the population of the Spilsby area was 20,022, and I now estimate it to the middle of 1937 as 20,700.

The Rateable Value is £64,830 and the estimate net product of 1d. rate is £294.

The number of inhabited houses is 6,180.

The Births were 289, 152 males and 137 females, this represents a rate per 1,000 population of 14 and is 1.45 below the average of the last five years.

The Birth-rate of all England and Wales was 14.9.

The Deaths were 248 representing a death rate per 1,000 of 11.73 which is slightly below the average of the last five years.

The Death-rate of England and Wales was 12.4.

The deaths of infants under one year numbered 15 giving a rate per 1,000 births of 51.9.

No death was registered from Puerperal Sepsis or any other Puerperal cause and only one from any of the Infectious Diseases (Whooping Cough).

Eight persons died from consumption giving a death rate of .38 per 1,000 slightly lower than the average of the last five years.

Cancer claimed 27 victims giving a rate per 1,000 of 1.30 and is slightly lower than the average for the last five years.

2. General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals. No patient suffering from Small Pox was sent to the Joint Small Pox Hospital at Osgodby. Two patients suffering from Scarlet Fever were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital at Osgodby and one patient suffering from Erysipelas to the Isolation Hospital at Scartho.

No final arrangement has been made with regard to the provision of the Joint Infectious Hospital for this District.

Early cases of Tuberculosis (women and Children) are sent by the County Council to their Sanatorium at Branston, male patients are sent to Sanatoria in other Counties.

There is an Orthopedic Clinic established at West End Villas, Spilsby, which is under the care of an Orthopedic Specialist from Lincoln.

The Hospitals for ordinary Medical and Surgical cases are the County Hospital, Lincoln, and the Cottage Hospitals at Alford and Spilsby.

Bacteriological Examinations are conducted by the County Council at Lincoln and by the Clinical Research Association in London.

Ambulance. Motor Ambulances belonging to the North Lincolnshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society are available for the removal of cases of accident or illness. Osgodby Infectious Hospital provides its own ambulance.

Midwifery and Maternity Services. The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act for the whole of the Administrative County. Ten Midwives are employed in this area by the District Nursing Associations, one by the Public Assistance Committee at the Gables, Hundleby, and one is in private practice.

3. Sanitary Conditions.

Water Supply.

Fen Scheme. It is with great pleasure that I have to record the progress of the Water Scheme. The Source Works were commenced under the direction of (the late) Mr. Bolt, whose careful survey and arduous labours for many years reached their greatest achievement. Unhappily he did not live to see the fulfilment of his ambition, but by the end of the year it was estimated that sufficient water had been tapped to secure a supply for the Fen District including Wainfleet.

The Coastal Scheme. The works on Humby Bore Hole were commenced about the middle of July and have continued to about half the required depth and it is hoped that the permission of the Ministry will be sought in the early part of the New Year to proceed with the co struction of the Storage Works and the laying of mains.

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Drainage and Sewerage.

Spilsby and Hundleby. The combined gravitational Scheme has worked fairly satisfactorily during the year, but the quantity of sewage to be dealt with is gradually increasing caused by the building of New Houses, the conversion of privies into water closets and the rising quantity of water used by people who can obtain their supply from pressure fed mains; consequently additional care and attention to the tanks and filters has to be given to maintain them in efficient working condition and I am afraid the time is not far distant when an extension of the scheme will be required.

Burgh. The rapid increase of the number of dwellings on the Station and Skegness Roads hasten the time when the question of a Sewage Scheme cannot be delayed. With this also is foreshadowed the modernisation of our present disposal works.

Wainfleet. The question of Wainfleet Sewage has been to the fore-front sometime and the need becomes monthly more imperative. The blockage during the summer demonstrated some of the difficulties to be encountered with the old brick culverts which are still part of the system of sewers and the necessity of an early survey and report is indicated.

Chapel St. Leonards. Serious complaints were received during the Season in respect of Sewage treatment in some works in Chapel. This is the first attempt at dealing with sewage and does not appear to have been favourably received but with some slight modification there should be no cause for complaint in this particular instance. Certain other complaints continue to come in with regard to cesspools and their emptying by taking a pipe to the near by ditch. These complaints will, I am afraid, continue to come in until a complete system of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal is embarked upon. The need will be accentuated in the coming days when the piped water supply is available.

Hogsthorpe. Hogsthorpe sewage at the present time is discharged into Sewar Ditches which need annual cleaning out. This is only a temporary measure and one which is open to grave objection.

Ingoldmells. On account of its phenomenal growth the question of Sewage cannot be much further delayed and it is vitally essential that schemes be prepared in order that the Council may take advantage of the very first opportunity that may be presented in the way of a grant.

Public Conveniences. Despite an appreciable amount of critism the much needed conveniences have been erected in Spilsby and have proved their value. The erection is a decided asset both in usefulness and appearance. Controversy still rages for new sites at Anderby and Chapel.

Scavenging.

The Public Scavenging systems remain the same as last year and although there still continue to be a certain number of complaints with regard to non removal by the various contractors. On investigation these complaints are sometimes found to be due to negligence of the householder.

Analysis.

I have analysed 36 samples of drinking water during the year.

4. Housing.

The number of new dwellings erected during the year is as follows:-

By Public Authorities.

Lindsey County Council	4	
Spilsby Rural District Council	37	41
By private enterprise	158	158
	Total	199

The 37 erected by the Council were erected in the following parishes.

	A2	A3	B3	B5	Total.
Firsby			6		6
Hogsthorpe		2			2
New Leake	1	11		1	13
Stickney		2			2
Thorpe St. Peter		6			6
Friskney		4			4
Toynton St. Peter		4			4
	1	29	6	1	37

44 houses have been commencod during the year but have not been completed.

	A2	A3	Total.
Wainfleet St. Mary		8	8
Stickney		4	4
Willoughby		2	2
Ulceby		2	2
Stickford		2	2
Friskney		6	6
Wainfleet All Saints		10	10
Spilsby		6	6
Mumby	4		4
	4	40	44

Two temporary assistants had been appointed in 1936 to help in the measurement of dwellings, and two further assistants were appointed in January to expedite the completion of the survey. This was completed by the end of June, but two of the temporary assistants were retained until the end of the year in order to notify every owner of the number allowed in his premises. As a guide for treatment of individual houses in poor condition the Committee decided on "The Standard of fitness" which will help to maintain the standard throughout the district.

The popularity of our Coastline is shewn in the continued increased development, for in addition to the separate dwellings built, layouts have been deposited in connection with five Estate plans (with roads and services) embracing almost a thousand properties. These buildings are mostly of a permanent nature and the work is already well advanced.

Holiday Camps.

The very marked success of Messrs. Butlin Ltd. Holiday Camp at Ingoldmells has been evidenced by the depositing of further plans, which will bring the accommodation up to 5,000.

The present proposals concern a rather more permanent class of material and the Sewerage System will be increased to four times its present capacity.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

During the year one application was received for a grant and this was agreed to, although the actual work of reconstruction was not commenced before the end of the year. It will no doubt be possible to make further use of the provisions of this Act in the Survey which is now taking place. It may, in fact, be more advantageous to do so and curtail the building programme.

Temporary Buildings and Caravans.

There still continues to be a demand for this class of structure, and during the peak of the Season almost every grass field within approachable distance of the Sea is utilised.

Slum Clearance.

Two clearance orders became effective during the year in New Leake by the removal of the tenants to new Council Houses and the work of demolition in one area has been completed. The Ministry decided to hold an Enquiry into the "New England" Croft area but this was deferred pending the submission of definite proposals by the owner.

Town and Country Planning.

At the end of the year it was gratifying to note that the Town Planning Resolution was on deposit at the Ministry of Health, where consent was anticipated at an early date. This will provide an effective weapon for grouping classes of development and providing more efficient sanitary administration.

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

The inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies has revealed that many of the premises in this District for Milk Production fall far below the standard required by the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders. I am pleased to report that the farmers have responded liberally to our requirements and that the relations between the farmers and the Public Health Department have been very amicable. Four new Cowsheds have been built under the auspices of the Department.

There is a need for still further work to be carried out under the Milk and Dairies Order as the work done this year affects only about 70 of the 700 cowsheds in the district.

However, next year I hope to be able to report that many more Cowsheds comply with the required standard.

There are now 14 Accredited Producers and one Tuberculin Tested Producer in the District.

Name	Address	Designation.
R. Booth,	Sibsey.	Accredited.
F.T. Brock,	Chapel St. Leonards.	" "
A.E. Dennett,	Hundleby.	" "
G. Dennett,	Hundleby.	" "
F. Davidson,	Ingoldmells.	" "
R. Enderby,	Bratoft.	Tuberculin Tested.
R.B. Garfit,	Bratoft.	Accredited.
F. Garrill,	Burgh-le-Marsh.	" "
W. Hutton,	Huttoft.	" "
E. Johnson,	Great Steeping.	" "
G. Needham & Son,	Bilsby.	" "
T. Nickson,	Farlesthorpe.	" "
D. Paul,	Burgh-le-Marsh.	" "
W. Reeson,	Fishtoft Drove.	" "
J. Simpson,	Ingoldmells.	" "

Slaughter-Houses and Meat Inspection.

One case was discovered and reported to the Committee during the year, where a butcher displayed meat on a stall in the Market Place without any covering either to back, sides or top of the stall. This was a very serious matter which required strong action but it appeared unlikely that the person would do such a thing again, and it was decided to write a very strong warning letter.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of visits paid to slaughter-houses this year, but it must be realised that it is extremely difficult to carry out efficiently and effectively the Statutory Duties of Meat Inspection in so large a Rural Area. The summer season causes a great increase in this work due to the influx of visitors into the district with a corresponding increase in the amount of meat killed. On no occasion have we had to seize any meat, the butcher always surrendering such meat as your Inspectors found unwholesome and/or unfit for human consumption.

Bakehouses.

Owing to the shortage of staff through reasons beyond control it has not been possible to devote the necessary time to this particular branch. Inspection has been made but it is hoped to bring about next year as great a change in these duties as this year has been seen in Slaughter-house visits.

6. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Only one death was registered during the year, namely from Whooping Cough, and there was a marked diminution in the number of notifications of Scarlet Fever.

Small Pox. In common with the rest of England this District was free from Small Pox.

Scarlet Fever. Only five notifications were received, which is the smallest number since the passing of the Notification Act in 1890. Even out of this small number two referred to children who came to the seaside and were ill the same day and were found to be ill with Scarlet Fever. They both went back to their homes in their own motor cars that same day.

Diphtheria. Only one case was notified; the child was not very ill and soon recovered. The Council, late in the year, adopted a scheme for the voluntary immunisation of children from Diphtheria.

The Lindsey County Council have offered to supply the serum free, and the scheme adopted is that on receipt of a notification in any village, the Medical Officer of Health is authorised to circularize the parents telling them that the Council is prepared to offer immunisation free of charge to all children.

Enteric Fever. The single notification received referred to a delicate man who had some months previously been notified as tuberculous.

Puerperal Pyrexia. occured four times in the District but all the patients recovered.

Erysipelas. This disease was notified six times, and all the patients recovered except one who was removed to Scartho Infectious Hospital where she died in a few days.

Pneumonia was very prevalent as a complication of Influenza in the first three months of the year.

The following table shows the incidence of Notifiable Diseases.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	5	4	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	1	-	-
Puerperal Fever	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-
Pneumonia	31	-	12
Erysipelas	6	-	1

Tuberculosis. This disease in all its forms was notified thirteen times, which is the same number as last year. Eight of these refer to Tuberculosis of the lungs and five to diseases in other parts of the body.

Age Period	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15.	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
20.	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
25.	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45.	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
55.	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1
65 &Upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	4	4	1	4	3	5	1	1

I cannot conclude my report for 1937 without referring to the great loss the Council has sustained by the untimely death of its Chief Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Bolt came from Halstead in Essex in 1906 and for more than thirty years carried out the ever increasing work of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor of this large Rural District. He came as a complete stranger but he very soon showed that the Council had made a wise choice in its selection. I ofter marvelled at his profound knowledge of the numerous "Rules and Orders" issued from time to time by the Ministry of Health and at the happy way he had of obtaining compliance with the minimum of friction. He was the soul of honour and straightforward in all his dealings. He never spared himself if extra work required doing, and few know better than I do the long hours he devoted to his work. Personally, I feel that I have lost a very pleasant companion and an ever willing helper.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX No. 1

The following Tables relate to the whole of the Spilsby Rural District.

The following shows some of the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year throughout the whole of the Rural District.

Common Lodging Houses.	(No. registered under byelaws.	-
	(No. of inspections made	-
	(No. of contraventions of byelaws	-
	(No. of contraventions remedied	-
Canal Boats used as Dwelling-houses.	(No. registered under Acts	-
	(No. of Inspections	-
	(No. of contraventions of regulations	-
	(No. of contraventions remedied	-
Movable Dwellings Tents, Vans, &c	(No. inspected during year	421
	(No. of nuisances therefrom abated	29
	(No. removed from district	10
Bakehouses.	(No. in district	41
	(No. of underground bakehouses	-
	(No. of inspections	21
	(Contraventions of Factory Acts	3
	(Defects remedied	3
Slaughter Houses.	(No. on register	31
	(No. of Inspections	1,025
	(Contraventions of byelaws	4
	(Defects remedied	4
Cowsheds	(No. on register	666
	(No. of Inspections	176
	(Contraventions of regulations	253
	(Contraventions remedied	182
	(No. of Milch cows in district	2,482
Dairies and Milk Shops	(No. on register	670
	(No. of Inspections	188
	(Contraventions of regulations	13
	(Contraventions remedied	10
	(Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	-

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Weight of Meat Condemned.

Beef	4,597 lbs.
Mutton	357 lbs.
Pork	789 lbs.
Total	5,743 lbs.

Offensive Trades	(No. of premises in district	3
	(No. of Inspections	4
	(Contraventions of Byelaws	-
	(Contraventions remedied	-
Shop Act, 1934	(Number of shops inspected	7
	(Additional heating or ventilation	-
	(Additional Sanitary conveniences	1

Unsound Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (if any)					
Number inspected					
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.		2		2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		22		40	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.					
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned		2			2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.		2			24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.					

Water Supply.

Wells
- New Sunk 43
- Cleansed, repaired 4
- Closed as polluted 1

Public Supplies
- Area supplied Wainfleet All Saints Wainfleet St. Mary, Spilsby, Hundleby & parts of Burgh, Croft, Gunby, Candlesby, Welton, Orby, Bilsby, Markby, Well, Raithby, Carrington, Frithville, Sibsey, W.Fen, Friskney & Ulceby.
- New supplies provided 76
- Cisterns, cleansed &c. 4

No. of samples obtained for analysis
- (a) from wells 52
- (b) from public supply 7

Any insufficiency and where - Fen District but Source Works have now been proved. Langriville, Thornton and Croft.

Drainage and Sewerage	Closets	No. of houses with privy vaults	3416
		No. of houses with pail closets	2267
		No. of pails substituted for vaults	8
		No. of pail closets repaired	39
		No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	24
		No. of houses with water closets	1264
		No. of water closets repaired	5
	Drains	Drains examined, exposed, tested	461
		Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped	25
		Waste piles, rainwater pipes disconnected	4
		New soil pipes or vent shafts fixed	223
		Drains reconstructed	9
		Existing soil pipes or vents repaired	11
	Sewers	New lengths of sewer laid	Nil
	Tanks, Filter Beds	Alterations to sewage disposal works	Nil
		Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	Wainfleet Spilsby.
	Cess-pools	Cesspools rendered impervious	163
		Cesspools emptied, cleansed	45
		Cesspools abolished	Nil
Disinfection.		Rooms disinfected	61
		(a) ordinary infectious disease	36
		(b) Tuberculosis	25
		Articles disinfected	Contents of Room
House Refuse		No. of covered ashpits	3868
		No. of bins substituted	10
		No. of houses using bins	3079
		Public Scavenger at Spilsby, Wainfleet, Burgh, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe and Anderby.	
		Frequency of removal	Weekly.
		No. of complaints of non-removal	30
		Method of final disposal	Controlled tipping.
Nuisances		Total number of nuisances during year	
		(1) Abated as result of informal action	208
		(2) Reported to Council	Nil
		Informal Action.	
Details of Nuisances Abated,		Overcrowding	25
		Smoke	Nil
		Accumulation of refuse	7
		Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	12
		Foul pigs and other animals	2
		Dampness	40
		Yards repaved and repaired	10
		Other nuisances	112

APPENDIX II

Total No. of New Houses erected during the year.	199
(1) By the Local Authority	37
(2) By other Local Authorities	4
(3) By other bodies or persons	158

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	619
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	671
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	95
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	144
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	75

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-

No. of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authorities or their Officers	63

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 36 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	--
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(i) by owners	1
(ii) by Local Authorities in default of owners	--
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	--
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(i) by owners	--
(ii) by Local Authorities in default of owners	--
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders and voluntarily	22
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	3

Action under Statutory Powers during the year (Continued)

(d) Proceedings under Section 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	--
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	--

Housing Act, 1936, - Part 4 - Overcrowding.

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	147
	(2) Number families dwelling therein	151
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	791
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	51
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	24
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	124
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	--

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APPENDIX III

Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.
Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	6	1	
Workshops (do do do)	211		
Workplaces(other than Outworkers prems.)	6	--	--
Total	223	1	--

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of defects Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.Inspector
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.			
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	--
Other nuisances	1	1	--
Sanitary Accommodation) not separate for sexes)	1	1	--
	6	6	--

No. of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted Nil.